

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claim 15 has been withdrawn by the Examiner as an unelected claim. Claim 16 is new. Claims 1-14 have been rejected. In view of foregoing amendments and following remarks, the Applicants request allowance of the Application.

Restriction Requirement

Claim 15 is restricted for being directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention as originally claimed. The restriction requirement is traversed for at least the reason that the Examiner has not shown that undue burden would result from examining the claim. However, in order to advance prosecution, claim 15 has been amended to remove the element where the document is edited. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

Claim Amendments

Applicants assert the amendment to the claims add no new matter. Support for new claim 16 can be found at least at ¶ 27.

Rejections Based on Prior Art

Claims 1-8

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reise et al. ("Reis" US 2004/0217985) in view of Phillips ("Philips" US 6,425,121) in further view of Rivera et al. ("Rivera" US 2004/0003353). Applicants traverse the rejections.

Claims 1-4

Consider a first portion of claim 1, which recites in part:

●●● to enable access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements according to authorization rules, **the authorization rules permitting the selection of form elements that are not geographically adjacent**

The Office Action states that this first portion is disclosed by Ries at ¶ 73. (Office Action, page 4). But, as previously explained in the Amendment filed on Oct. 10, 2007, on Page 7, the hooks of Ries only permit access rights to be defined according to a geographic area of a webpage. (Ries, ¶¶ 57, 73). None of the other cited prior art remedy the deficiencies of Ries. Phillips is

generally directed towards detecting forks within data flow diagrams and has no authorization rules. Rivera discloses permission rights to a digital form, but the form is not under development, and the rights are for whether a user can change values for fields of the form or view parts of the form. Therefore, none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the first portion of claim 1 recited above.

Moreover, consider a second portion of claim 1, which recites in part:

the form elements including global attributes of the form including the layout of the form

The Office Action states that this second portion is disclosed by FIG. 4B of Phillips. (Office Action, Page 4). But, FIG. 4B does not disclose or suggest at least the layout of the form as a form element. The form is displayed in the top right hand portion of FIG. 4B, but this appears to be for selecting the file that contains the form. In FIG. 4B there is also a section entitled "Properties" but there is no indication that the entire form can be selected and no indication that the layout of the form is a property of the form. In the invention of claim 1, a form element representing permission to control the layout of the form could be selected and authorization given to a user. There is no indication that this is possible in Phillips. None of the other cited prior art remedy the deficiencies of Phillips. Therefore, none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the second portion of claim 1 recited above.

For at least the reasons stated above none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and therefore include all of the elements recited in claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4 is requested.

Claims 5-8

Consider a first portion of claim 5, which recites in part:

●●● enabling access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements according to authorization rules, **the authorization rules permitting the selection of form elements that are not geographically adjacent**

As stated above for claim 1, none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the first portion of claim 5.

Moreover, consider a second portion of claim 5, which recites in part:

**the form elements including global attributes of the form
including the layout of the form**

As stated above for claim 1, none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the second portion of claim 5 recited above.

For at least the reasons stated above none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the elements of claim 5. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5 and therefore include all of the elements recited in claim 5. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5-8 is requested.

Claims 9-14

Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menninger ("Menninger" US 2003/0048301) in view of Ries, and in view of Phillips, and in further view of Rivera. Applicant traverses the rejections.

Claims 9-13

Consider a first portion of claim 9, which recites in part:

A computer-implemented method for customizing an electronic form including form elements **under development** ●●●

The Office Action states that this first portion is disclosed by Menninger at Page 81, ¶ 1858. (Office Action, page 6). But, as explained in the Amendment filed on April 4, 2007, on Page 5, the elements in Menninger are not under development. For example, Menninger at ¶ 1858 allows a user to select checkboxes (FIG. 167), press a button (FIG. 168) and select items from a drop-down list (FIG. 169). However, the GUI of Menninger is provided merely to allow users to interact with already developed GUI elements (e.g. checkboxes, button, drop-down list), not form elements that are themselves under development as claimed. None of the other cited prior art remedy the deficiencies of Menninger. Therefore, none of Menninger, Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the first portion of claim 9.

Consider a second portion of claim 9, which recites in part:

**and the permission list permitting the identification of form elements
that are not geographically adjacent**

As stated above for claim 1, none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the second portion of claim 9. Further, Menninger fails to remedy the

deficiencies Ries, Phillips, or Rivera. Therefore, none of Menninger, Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the second portion of claim 9.

Consider a third portion of claim 9, which recites in part:

the form elements **including global attributes** of the electronic form including the layout of the electronic form

As stated above for claim 1, none of Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the third portion of claim 9. Further, Menninger fails to remedy the deficiencies Ries, Phillips, or Rivera. Therefore, none of Menninger, Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the third portion of claim 9.

For at least the reasons stated above none of Menninger, Ries, Phillips, or Rivera either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the elements of claim 9. Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9 and therefore include all of the elements recited in claim 9. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9-13 is requested.

Claim 14

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menninger in view of Ries, and in view of Official Notice. Applicant traverses the rejection and Applicant respectfully traverses the Official Notice and respectfully requests published information and/or affidavits under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(d)(2) to support the Official Notice.

Consider a portion of claim 14, which recites in part:

giving **authorization** to **all electronic form elements** to a first user of the electronic form; and

for each successive user of the electronic form giving authorization to all electronic form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.

Applicant asserts that first-come first-served as is commonly understood does not give all of the form elements to a first user, but—if anything—would give the form elements requested by the first user.

None of the cited prior art remedy the Office Notice. Therefore, none of Official Notice, Menninger, or Ries either alone or in any combination disclose or suggest the elements of claim 14. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 14 is requested.

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CONCLUSION

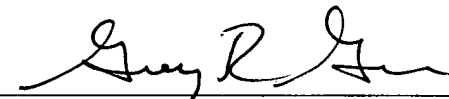
All outstanding rejections have been overcome. It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Although not believed necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4200 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2008



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